

HONORING FRESNO POLICE
OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Fresno Police Officer's Association for their commitment to serving the city and county of Fresno, California.

For over one hundred years, the Fresno Police Officer's Association (FPOA) has had a presence in Fresno. The organization was first known as the "Widow and Orphan's Organization" and provided assistance to the families of its members. The name was changed to the "Fresno Police Relief Association" and in 1951 was incorporated. The service that the organization provided expanded at this time to focus on improving benefits, salary and working conditions for the members. In 1975, the name of the organization finally became the Fresno Police Officer's Association. Throughout the organization's hundred years, its primary purpose has always been "Service."

Today the FPOA has over eleven thousand members and a Board of Directors consisting of eighteen elected positions. The Board positions include three officers (President, First Vice President and Second Vice President), twelve Directors at Large, one Staff Director and two Retiree Directors. The FPOA assists members with supplemental health benefits, provides scholarships to dependent children of active or retired members, offers legal assistance and helps with various disability issues. The group also gives back to the community by getting involved with charitable events.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Fresno Police Officer's Association for their commitment to serving the police officers of Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the organization many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF DAVID PETERSON
OF SARTELL MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true patriot, David Peterson, of Sartell, Minnesota. David is a City Councilman, community leader, attorney, husband and father. And, he is about to make his first deployment to Iraq as a Captain with the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Infantry Division.

Even a quick glimpse at David Peterson's life reveals the heart of a true citizen. An attorney by profession, David has worked in legal aid services, as a prosecutor, and in the civil division of the Stearns County Attorney's office. He will use that training as a JAG officer during his deployment.

His long and strong history of community leadership led him to run for City Council, and in January 2007, he was sworn into office. He will take a leave of absence from that position while he serves his fellow Minnesotans in Iraq.

Tonight in Sartell, David's friends and family and neighbors are meeting to wish him God-

speed as he prepares for his deployment. Along with the Sartell American Legion, the Mayor and City Council will present Captain David Peterson with a flag flown over the U.S. and Minnesota capitols and the Sartell City Hall. They've asked David to take it with him to Iraq and they will fly it again over the City Hall when he returns.

I join all of Sartell in our pride of this citizen-soldier, and I, too, wish him Godspeed and God's blessings on his journey.

RECOGNIZING MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY, PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD FOR SERVICE WINNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Michigan State University for its selection as a recipient of the Presidential Award for General Community Service from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Since its founding in 1968 as the Office of Volunteers, the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement at Michigan State University has been instrumental in encouraging students to become involved with volunteering both locally and across the globe. In 2007–2008, more than 14,000 students were involved in volunteer efforts, a number that has doubled in the past six years. It is these qualities which made Michigan State University a wonderful choice as an Honor Roll Presidential Award winner for 2008. Each year this award is given to colleges and universities as an acknowledgment of their commitment to service learning and civic engagement. In 2008, Michigan State University was one of three universities to receive the Honor Roll's Presidential Award, and one of only 18 to be honored since 2006.

Specifically, Michigan State University is being recognized for the stability, growth, and impact of its student volunteer program. This program organizes students to work with over 360 nonprofits, public schools, hospitals, and neighborhood organizations and cooperates with student-led programs such as Alternative Spring Break. These are just a few examples of the many creative and variable ways that the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement reaches out to communities locally and worldwide.

Madam Speaker, a commitment to volunteering and service learning is the foundation for creating a more engaged citizen body. A commitment to others lies at the heart of many of the principles upon which this country was founded. I wish to extend my gratitude to Michigan State University for its achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Michigan State University for its years of dedication to service and community organizing and in their selection as a Presidential Award for Service winner.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 352, the DTV Delay Act, which passed the Senate last week by unanimous consent. This legislation extends the digital television transition date and makes improvements to the converter box coupon program.

In 2005, Congress mandated that as of February 17, 2009, all television stations shut off their analog broadcasts and transmit in digital only. The transition from analog to digital will offer better pictures and sound, more programming choices, and interactive capabilities. It will also serve an important public safety purpose by freeing up spectrum for first responders for nationwide interoperable communications. Finally, it will provide consumers with new and innovative commercial wireless services.

Unfortunately, we are not prepared for this transition. The prior administration assured the Committee on Energy and Commerce repeatedly that the transition effort was on track. But on December 24, 2008, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) notified Congress that the converter box coupon program would run out of funding the first week of January and that it would need an additional \$250 million to \$350 million to meet projected demand.

The DTV converter box coupon program is supposed to ease the financial burden of the transition. But it has ground to a halt. There are currently over 2 million households on the waiting list. In addition, the FCC has not adequately planned for call centers and other assistance for consumers who will face technical problems after the transition has occurred.

The President's transition team asked Congress to extend the deadline for a brief period. This is not a step that anyone wants to take. But we have no good alternative. Without a short, one-time extension, millions of households will lose all television reception.

The measure before us extends the date of the transition to June 12 and extends the coupon program date until July 31, 2009. It will also allow those who hold expired coupons—or never received their coupons because of problems with third-class mail—to reapply.

Moreover, the economic recovery package that the House passed last week includes \$650 million to fix the coupon program and intensify consumer education and support.

S. 352 also takes steps to lessen the impact on other affected parties, including public safety, broadcasters, and wireless licensees.

I am pleased that this bill has broad support in the public safety community, including the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). It has the support of the two biggest winners of spectrum that will be vacated as a result of the DTV transition—AT&T and Verizon. It has the support of the National Association of Broadcasters, the major networks, and Univision. And, it has the support of a number of public